DEC 0 1 2004 55

1 FW #

VITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMENDMENT A

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In his first office action on the merits ("OA 1") mailed **August 2, 2004**, the examiner (a) rejected Claims 5, 6, 13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112; (b) rejected Claim 1 based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Torelli (c) rejected Claims 4 - 6, 11 - 13, 15 - 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over various combinations of cited references; (d) objected to the drawings as failing to show all the features of the invention as claimed; (e) objected to Claims 2, 3 and 10; and (f) allowed Claim 14.

Applicant believes that the following amendments, in light of the accompanying remarks, place the claims remaining in this application after the accompanying amendments in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

This Response is submitted in compliance with the PTO's Revised Amendment Format, MPEP § 714.III.1 -.4 at 700-192 et seq. (Eighth Ed.).

0461M-001 - LISBY - S/N 10/618,921 - Response to First Office Action on the Merits

Page 1